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COPY No.

INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

ITALIAN EAST AFRICA.

SR/0839/IEA/Part.1.

DISTRIBUTION "B".

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ITALIAN EAST AFRICA.

Based on material received during period 1st. to 31st.
August, 1939.

SECTION. 1. - CIVIL AFFAIRS.1. INTRODUCTION.

The Great Rains still continue and M.T. is . . . at a standstill in most parts of the country off the main roads. Consequently there has been little of interest taking place during the month.

2. The VICEROY.

The Viceroy arrived back in ITALIAN EAST AFRICA on 26th. August and after two days stop in ASMARA flew to ADDIS ABEBA, where he landed early in the afternoon of the 28th. A representative array of troops of the garrison was drawn up at the air port to greet him, and he was cheered by the populace as he drove through the streets of the capital. From more than one of his immediate subordinates he received the assurance that they were " more than ever at his service."

Ten days before the VICEROY'S return about $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons of various kinds of foodstuffs were unloaded at MASSAUA and transported to his residence in the Capital.

3. OTHER PERSONALITIES.

GASPARINI, the Director of Health, returned to EAST AFRICA at the beginning of August and performed the opening ceremony of a new irrigation canal at TESSENEI in ERITREA. He and DAODIACE, the Governor of ERITREA, received special praise from NASI, the acting Governor-General, for the great stimulus which they had given to economical development in the Empire.

CERULLI, the Governor of HARAR Province, was granted a month's leave in Italy and was to leave ABYSSINIA on 16th. Aug. GORINI, the First Secretary, took his place, it was thought at

/first only temporarily;

first only temporarily; but it appears now that he has assumed the Governorship for a permanent tour of office.

The Metropolitan of ETHIOPIA, ABUNA ABRAHAM, died at the end of July and elaborate arrangements were made for the funeral ceremony and for the election of a new Metropolitan. The date of the funeral is not known, but it appears that the dead man was still above ground on 8th. August, and the election had not taken place by the end of the month.

4. PROPAGANDA.

Owing to the International situation in EUROPE the Italian authorities are most anxious about the internal political situation in ABYSSINIA, which is described as one of extreme delicacy. All political authorities in the country are urged to maintain the closest touch with the native chiefs and to use conciliatory methods in their dealings with the inhabitants.

5. MISSIONS.

A geophysical mission has reached GORRAHEI on its way to GARDU.

6. CAMPO DUX.

The CAMPO DUX gathering for Anno XVII which was to have been held in ASMARA probably sometime in September has been suspended owing to the EUROPEAN situation. It had been decided to entrust the representation of the various Governorates to the Federation of Fasces, ERITREA, for this year, but it was hoped that all the Federal H.Qs of ITALIAN EAST AFRICA would take part in Anno XVIII.

7. MINERALS.

The salvage of condemned artillery and other metallic materials has been entrusted to the civilian firm of CITAO, which has also been made responsible for the development of all newly discovered mineral resources.

8. AGRICULTURE AND AFFORESTATION.

Coffee is now being produced in sufficient quantities for export, and over eight tons were exported during August via KHARTOUM to Northern EUROPE.

Damage by locusts has been reported from various parts of the country including the DESSIE and METEMMA areas. As a result additional stocks of grain are being sent to the affected areas.

SOCOTA has applied to the NUCLEO MILIZIA FORESTALE at UALDIA for 5,000 seedlings.

300 tons of cane sugar has been asked for from SOMALIA by the ASMARA mineral water industry.

9. CHANGE OF NATIONALITY.

As was done in all ITALIAN territories, natives of the Northern part of ITALY which used to belong to AUSTRIA, who wished to become GERMAN subjects, were invited to apply for change of nationality. We heard of no acceptances of this invitation.

10. EUROPEAN CRISIS.

It was mooted that efforts should be made to stir up rebellion amongst the native populations of neighbouring BRITISH and FRENCH territory. At the same time it was urged that night patrols should be instituted in all districts of Italian territory to give the natives an impression of constant control.

Immediately after the signing of the RUSSO-GERMAN agreement the Governor of AMHARA issued a declaration on the subject to his Governorate, which probably represented the official attitude. He said that the agreement demonstrated the inadequacy of the attempt at encirclement by the democracies. ITALY might not be in agreement with the internal conduct of affairs in RUSSIA but it was the latter's foreign policy that was of value from the international point of view.

national point of view.

On 29th. August the BRITISH, FRENCH, GREEK and EGYPTIAN Consulates requested that their nationals and those under their protection should be allowed to leave the country. This was agreed to and the exodus was facilitated by the ITALIAN authorities, but each person was only permitted to take a small sum of money out of the country.

On the same day, in order to economize in petrol, private cars were forbidden on the roads except in cases of necessity, for which a special permit had to be obtained. Furthermore, public lights were to be put out at 2100 hours and private lights at midnight.

On 31st. August an order was announced forbidding machines to fly over towns of ITALIAN EAST AFRICA. This does not apply, however, to normal civil activity, nor to training, instruction and test flights.

On the same day the ocean telegraph service from MOGADISCIO was suspended until further notice.

ERITREA PROVINCE.

11. IRRIGATION at TESSENEI.

During the first few days of the month the Governor of ERITREA carried out an inspection of the Eastern plain in the vicinity of TESSENEI. During this tour of inspection the seventh secondary irrigation canal was opened by GASPARINI, the Director of Health, and was named after the Viceroy. The canal was to provide the irrigation for land supplying a new factory, in addition to three already in existence, and was to irrigate 3,200 hectares of new land in its first seven kilometres. The rate of flow was more than 10 cubic metres per second. The cost of this secondary canal was given as lire 850,000.

/ 12. ASSAB PORT.

12. ASSAB PORT.

On the 5th. August a violent cloudburst did considerable damage to public buildings at ASSAB, some of them being completely unroofed. The damage was estimated at lire 80,000.

13. FINANCE.

The forecast of expenditure for September was lire 150,000,000.

SCIOA PROVINCE.14. BUILDING OF AQUEDUCT.

It was complained that less than one-third of the tubes required for the aqueduct being built at ADDIS ABEBA had been sent. The total weight of tubes required was nearly 660 tons.

GALLA-SIDAMO PROVINCE.15. CENSUS STATISTICS.

The census return of the white population of GIMMA, excluding military, on 30th. June, was given as 4676 of which 242 were females.

SECTION. 2. - MILITARY.G E N E R A L.16. MILITARY SITUATION.

There has been little military activity during the month, owing to the continuation of the rains, but operations were carried out in GOGGIAN by one column under Col. AMATO, of which there will be further mention later. The ITALIANS have been taking advantage of the slack period to set their house in order and some re-organization of garrisons and bande has been taking place. Dis-affected and inefficient native N.C.O's and troops have been got rid of as far as possible and reliable native N.C.O's have been put in responsible positions in colonial units. Numerous tours of inspection by air have been made by Generals in their

several areas.

17. REDUCTION OF FORCES.

The following units have been disbanded:-

71st. Colonial Battalion.
92nd. Colonial Battalion.
752nd. C.C.N.N. Battalion.

18. COMMUNICATIONS.

Tracks in the GONDAR and DEBRA MARCOS areas, and presumably in most parts of the country, are still impassable. Special efforts to get columns through have been made in urgent cases, and the teleferica (cable railway) has been used to cross swollen rivers. It is anticipated that tracks in the vicinity of METEMMA will be closed until December, whilst the garrison at ALEFA is not even supplied with a motor vehicle.

19. CENSORSHIP.

It appears that no censorship of mail from ITALIAN EAST AFRICA was in force at least until the beginning of the crisis at the end of August, because the Higher Command complained early in the month that much military information, often false or exaggerated, was becoming public knowledge through private correspondence. This was due to culpable imprudence on the part of soldiers writing home, and it was suggested that, when soldiers were writing to their relations or friends, they should confine their news to describing the countryside and the beauties of the dawn!

20. FRENCH FRONTIER.

On 29th. August a field hospital from ASMARA, consisting of eight officers, 14 white troops, and about 45 black troops, arrived at SARDO, about 40 miles from the JIBUTI frontier.

21. EUROPEAN CRISIS.

All leave and repatriation to ITALY was cancelled on 16th. August.

/ 22. PERSONALITIES.

22. PERSONALITIES.

Lt.-Col. MENZIO, the Chief of Staff at HARAR, has apparently been on a visit to TRIPOLI and is not returning to ABYSSINIA just yet.

OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS.23. METCIARA.

Early in August a drive was made in the neighbourhood of METCIARA - South of ASBA LITTORIA and EAST of ADAMA, both of these places being on the JIBUTI railway - with the object of ascertaining if there were any rebel elements in the district. A special wireless set was installed at METCIARA having direct communication with HARAR, in case rapid reinforcements for the operations should become necessary, and two or three small columns patrolled the area. These columns probably each had a strength of one company, and were commanded by Subalterns. No rebels were encountered, but the operations were soon frustrated by the impassability of the tracks owing to the wet weather, and after a few days they were abandoned.

24. GOGGIAM.

A sharp skirmish took place near one of the GOGGIAM Garrisons, probably DERBA UORK, on 7th. August, and a band of about 400 rebels attacked the fort. Lt.-Col. COCCHINI, Capt. ARCHIDIACONO and a Lieutenant were taken prisoners; a Second-Lieutenant, a Signalmans Corporal-Major and 39 black troops were killed, and 40 black troops were wounded. It appears that Lt.-Col. COCCHINI died later. About 2,000 rebels under BELAI ZELLECHE were reported to be in the vicinity of the fort and about to assault it, and another report estimated the number of rebels concentrated in the area to be considerably higher.

The ITALIAN authorities realized that this rebel success would greatly enhance their prestige, and they were anxious lest

it might alienate the support of the chiefs who had recently submitted. This had to be avoided at all costs as the political situation had recently been so promising.

About 14th. August a column was sent out from DEBRA MARCOS commanded by Colonel AMATO with the object of punishing and dispersing the rebels. The composition of the force is not known, but six aircraft under the command of Colonel BARBATI were attached to it from GONDAR and were based on BAHAR DAR.

The operations took part in the zone BICCENA, DEBRA UORK, and MARTULA MARIAM and lasted about a fortnight. With air assistance the villages of ARARA, GHEDEB, DIMA and DEBRA DIMONAT were bombed and raided and the area thoroughly combed. The main body of the rebels avoided an engagement and the column encountered little opposition. On 30th. August the column returned to BICCENA and a few days later to DEBRA MARCOS. The air detachment at BAHAR DAR returned to GONDAR on 31st. August.

25. OTHER OPERATIONS.

Minor operations were also carried out in the vicinity of BURIE, FAGUTTA and TISISAT.

S E R V I C E S.

26. STOCKS.

Most garrisons appear to have sufficient stocks of foodstuffs and petrol to last them for some months. There is, however, a shortage of cereals in ERITREA and HARAR Provinces, and MOGADISCIO was asked to authorize the despatch of 100/200 tons of maize, grown near CHISIMAIO, to ASMARA for the supply of the former province.

27. SUPPLIES.

Supplies are still being dropped by parachute on outlying garrisons, and METEMMA and GUBBA on the SUDAN frontier are experiencing difficulty in getting all ^{they} ask for. OMAGER has been

/ instructed by GONDAR

instructed by GONDAR to comply with METEMMA'S indents. GUBBA at one time succeeded in getting ten tons of sugar, and then were ordered to return some of it !

There appears to be a considerable shortage of tobacco throughout the country

28. CATTLE AND HIDES.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining fresh meat, and garrisons running short have been authorized to buy cattle in the open market at prices fixed in conjunction with the local political authorities. Lire 700 a head for large sized cattle, lire 400-450 for medium-sized and lire 300 for small sized cattle have been suggested as fair prices.

The sale of hides as a bye-product from the cattle has been authorized, the price being fixed in one district at lire 5 for large hides and lire 4 for small. In another district, however, a native has offered lire 15 for each hide.

29. BLANKETS.

Owing to the severity of the climate the 69th. Colonial Bn at ENGIABARA indented for the issue of a second blanket and other warm clothing to each man in the unit and these were sent up from GONDAR sixteen days after the request was made.

ADDIS ABEBA indented on ASMARA for 15,000 used blankets and 65,000 new ones.

30. HAYMAKING.

All the garrisons in GOGGIAM situated in hay-producing areas are adequately provided with scythes, sickles and rakes for hay-making.

E N G I N E E R S.

31. ROAD MAINTENANCE.

Maintenance work has been completed on the main road ASMARA-ADDIS ABEBA between QUORAM and ALOMATA.

/32. BRIDGING.

32. BRIDGING.

A ferry, boats and bridging material has been sent to OMAGER, near the SUDAN frontier, from ASMARA for bridging the SETIT, where there was a great traffic delay recently owing to floods. (See para. 18, July Report) 30 tons of cement has been despatched for the construction of a bridge over the REB, which flows into Lake TANA from the East.

33. COMMUNICATIONS.

Wireless stations have been instructed not to accept messages mentioning moves in clear.

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ITALIAN EAST AFRICA

Based on material received during August

1. CIVIL AFFAIRS(a) General.

The Viceroy, accompanied by his principal A.D.C., General VOLPINI and the FASCIST Inspector of Works, FOSSA, arrived back early this month. He demonstrated his interest in the developement of ASSAB by insisting on disembarking there and being flown thence to ADDIS ABEBA. There is, as yet, no sign of his Chief of Cabinet, DENTI DI PIRAJNO.

A conference of Governors was apparently held at ADDIS ABEBA at the end of the month. MEZZETTI, CAROSELLI and DAODIACE certainly were in ADDIS ABEBA at that time as was also General GAZZERA, the new Governor of GALLA SIDAMO. Among the subjects discussed was possibly the proposal to form a separate Province of SCIOA - which was vaguely referred to in the Italian Broadcast news. No details of this proposal are yet known.

Heavy rain damaged 40 Kms. of the Via Imperiale near QUIHA on the 12th. Traffic was completely interrupted and the damage was such as to decide the authorities hurriedly to repair and re-open the military road from QUIHA to SCERICOT. One way traffic was resumed on the 14th but it was nevertheless decided to continue work on the military road as further breaks in the Imperial Way were expected.

Earlier in the month the Via Imperiale was found well blocked near MACALLE with stones and tar drums. There were no clues as to who was responsible.

A "Littorina" (Diesel Engined Railway coach) service has been introduced between ADDIS ABEBA and DIRE DAUA. It is hoped shortly to extend this service to GIBUTI.

It was noted last month that the Colonial Police had taken over the duties of the Road Militia; it now appears that they have also assumed those of the Port Militia.

General MAMBRINI inspected the HARRAR Police Bn. early in the month.

Lt. General PASSERONE and Console Generale BONACCORSI of the Labour Legions Command visited SOMALIA on a tour of inspection at the latter end of the month.

Sudanese road workers gave some trouble at DESSIE on the 14th when the police had to open fire on a drunken party of them - killing three.

(b) Eritrea

As noted above, the Governor, DAODIACE, has been at ADDIS ABEBA this month. During his absence General TESSITORE acts as Governor, as the Chief Secretary, MISCHI, is on leave.

One MARTELLINI is now apparently District Commissioner at ASSAB in place of LOBELLO.

A violent storm did considerable damage at MASSAUA at the beginning of the month. Several military store huts were destroyed.

Raiding of UOGGERAT camps by DANCALIS (the reverse of the usual!) was reported from DEBUB district at the end of the month.

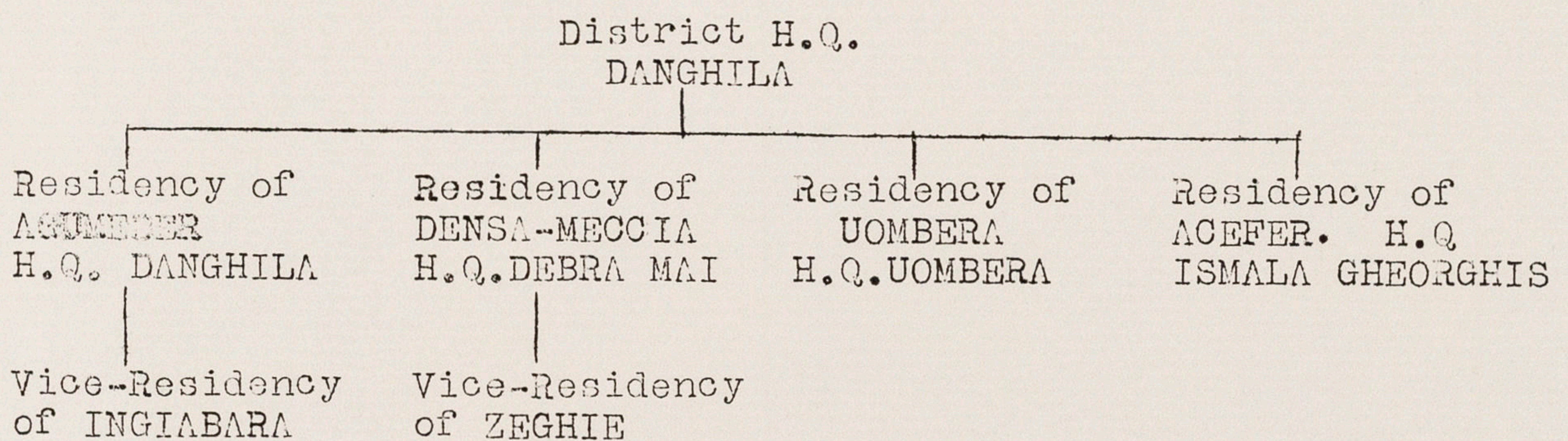
(c) Amhara

There is every sign that the rebellion in this province is by no means over. Early in the month we learnt that DEGIAC^S NEGASC and MANGASCIA had once more decided to sink their differences and to unite in rebellion. It was thought that a recent air raid on FAGUTTA, MANGASCIA's lair, had caused this reunion but at the time it was not certainly known whether this

reunion was a prelude to renewed anti-government action, or to a joint retreat into the SUDAN. There has, however, been no sign whatever of the latter taking place. With the ITALIANS sitting very tight within their defences the only action open to the rebels has been the raiding of villages which have submitted. This they have been doing regularly during the past month.

The Headquarters of the District Commissioner of LASTA has been moved from SOCOTA to LALIBELA. It has not yet been decided if the military H.Q. is to follow suit.

The District of N.W. GOGGIAM has been organized as follows:-



As in other districts, it has been found necessary to have recourse to a system of native runners to carry mails during the wet season.

(d) HARRAR

Public security has somewhat deteriorated in this province and certain movements of troops have taken place as a result. It may well be that the sending of troops from other districts to provide garrisons in MINGIAR has reduced the available forces below the safety line. It was with the avowed purpose of bolstering up public confidence that the 39th. Bn. was recently sent into EGERE district.

(e) Somalia

Nothing to report.

(f) Galla Sidamo

General GAZZERA has arrived in EAST AFRICA to relieve General GELOSO as Governor of this province. General NASI, the Governor of HARRAR is now the only one of the original Governors to retain his post.

(2) MILITARY(a) General

General CAVALLERO flew home at the end of the month but expects to be back in EAST AFRICA by Sept. 10th.

General MISCHI embarked for home on the 24th. It is thought that he may not return, and that with the 6th Col. Bde H.Q. once more back at DESSIE, the command of the Uollo-Ieggiu military zone may pass to the Bde. Cdr., - Colonel (now Gen.) TOSTI.

The Umbria took home two of the "Special" Infantry Bns. A further one of these battalions and 2 CC.NN. Bns also left, or were about to leave, at the end of the month.

The 8th "^{eria}~~Pustina~~" Bde CC.NN. has now been dissolved and its component units are being repatriated.

We are still very much in the dark as to what the ultimate Artillery organization is to be apart from the Col. Bde. Pack groups. It now appears that not only the Btys. "da Posizione" are being disbanded but also the "Gruppi Motorizzati 'D'Africa'" - which we had imagined to form part of the permanent garrison. We may be wrong in assuming that all these groups are to be disbanded on the strength of the undoubted disbandment of the 3rd such group in AMHARA. It may be that A.A. and Coast Defence will be entrusted to D.I.C.A.T. and D.A.C.O.S. Milizia groups.

(b) Active Operations

This month has seen no operations other than the aerial bombardment of targets reported by various nervous

garrisons. These latter have spent the month asking for barbed wire and more and more M.G's. to be dropped on them from the air. Their nerves have not been improved by the large number of desertions from the Bande Irregolari - which we predicted last month. Desertions from the Ghisc Abbai Banda were of such proportions that General MEZZETTI suggested that it would be better to disband the complete unit.

Although no details are available it would appear that the new commander at BURIE, Lt. Col. BAUER, did attempt a sortie with unfortunate results, for General MEZZETTI sent him the following reprimand:-

"The events at BURIE are due to trying to extend the politico-military organization of that district with untried and unsuitable personnel in disobedience of my orders - which were to content ourselves with the consolidation of the positions gained. I must therefore blame O.C. Garrison. He has erred seriously in his estimate of the rebel forces and of the loyalty of the villagers - who are naturally compelled to follow the side which appears to be the stronger at the moment".

On the 22nd MANGASCIA was reported to have concentrated all his men near FAGUTTA and to have told his scouts to let him know if any ITALIAN troops ventured out of GUTA garrison.

BELLAI ZELLECHE is reported to have the intention of attacking MARTULA MARIAM in the near future.

Col. RAUGEI's column remains at MESFINTO - but he himself has returned to ADI REMOZ and is clamouring for leave. An abortive attack was made on MESFINTO on the 26th.

(c) Native Forces

This month has seen the completion of the concentration of the 3rd Bde. at DEBRA MARCOS - with the exception of the 22nd Bn. which remains at DANGHILA.

Colonel NATALE was unable to welcome his reunited Bde. as he had to be flown to ADDIS ABEBA to undergo an operation. During his absence Major LUPU commands the Bde. At least five new groups of Cavalry Sqdns. are being formed of which more than one is being raised in HARRAR. In ERITREA 8 Cpts. and 16 Subalterns are being asked for for Cavalry Sqdns.

It seems as though the Raggruppamenti and Bni A-S are at last to disappear. The disbandment of the 7th and 8th Bns suggested in our last report is confirmed and we also learn of the disbandment of the 5th. Ragg. The 12th. Bn. A-S has also returned to MOGADISCIO - which is probably the prelude to demobilization.

The 8th and 12th Bdes have moved their H.Q., the former to ADI UGRI and the latter to ADUA. The 23rd Bde has been addressed at UOLISO (where it has presumably replaced the 3rd Ragg. A-S).

As reported above H.Q. 6th Bde has returned to DESSIE.

(d) Intendenza

With the abolition of the Intendenza has come a change in the names of the units and appointments. To be more accurate, it seems that units which co-existed with the Intendenza Bases have now assumed the functions of these latter. We refer to the "Centri Servizi". Whereas we used to have at a place such as QUORAM a Base Intendenza and a Centro Servizi, we now have only the latter but it appears to carry out most of the duties of the former. The Intendant at a provincial H.Q. is now known as the "Capo ufficio Staccato Servizi". One Col. BUTTA is to relieve Col DA PINO in this appointment at ASMARA.

Efforts are being made to tighten up the control over the use of M.T. and G.H.Q. says it will take "ferocious" action in any cases of the illegal use of vehicles.

Lack of petrol is the motive prompting these moves.

(e) Engineering

It now appears that there is to be a "Mixed" Bn. of Engineers in each province, forming parts of a Mixed Regiment whose H.Q. is at ADDIS ABEBA.

More and more of the upkeep of the roads is being handed over to the AA.SS. Practically all the roads in ERITREA will pass out of the control of the Engineers by next month.

Progress on the ASSAB - DESSIE road has been somewhat slow of late, but it was reported that the crossing of the R. DOBI was begun early this month.

It is perhaps worthy of comment that the W/T network, on which depends the greater part of the country's communications, is almost entirely left to the control of comparatively junior officers. An outstanding example is the province of AMHARA. This province has a main network of some dozen or so fixed short-wave stations and an unknown number of medium-wave stations. During the recent operations there must have been at least 20 mobile short-wave stations in use. The organization and control of this system, plus the main station at GONDAR which communicates with ADDIS ABEBA and the other provincial capitals, is left in the hands of a subaltern of seven years' service.

